



TOWN OF BEAUX ARTS VILLAGE

PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES

April 22, 2004

Stefan

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Andy Stefan, Commissioners Carol Clemett, Dennis Casey, Sylvia Hobbs, Jake Donoghue.

GUESTS: Town Planner, Mona Green; Julia Morse, Robin Stefan

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK: Betsy Donworth

Acting Chairman Andy Stefan called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Commissioner Hobbs moved to approve the March 18, 2004 minutes. Commissioner Casey seconded. Motion approved.

PUBLIC HEARING: Acting Chairman Stefan opened the public hearing on the draft Beaux Arts Village 2004 Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman Stefan explained that the Comprehensive Plan serves as the guiding document for the Town Council when determining the passage of new or modified ordinances. It is the Planning Commission's task to review, revise and adopt a Comprehensive Plan every 7 years. Chairman Stefan suggested a few minor adjustments to the draft Plan. Julia Morse questioned if there had been any major changes to the draft. Chairman Stefan stated no, and explained that the Plan has been written to protect the diversity of the Village (lot size) and open space. Beaux Arts Village is a mature town so there is not much that can change; protecting what the Village has is the primary focus. Julia brought up the issue of protecting the Village's urban forest and how this is dealt with in the Comprehensive Plan. There was some discussion that the Town Council should pass ordinances dealing the urban forest protection that are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Hearing no further discussion, Chairman Stefan closed the public hearing.

Approved 4/22/04 Planning Commission Minutes

APPROVAL OF 2004 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: After some discussion on the minor corrections made to the draft Comprehensive Plan, Commissioner Hobbs made a motion that the 2004 Beaux Arts Village Comprehensive Plan, as modified, be approved. Commissioner Casey seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

ORDINANCE 323, Imposing a Moratorium on the Topping/Removal of Trees:

Commissioner Hobbs explained that the Town Council has been asked to impose a 30 day moratorium on the removal and topping trees in the Village. At their April 22, 2004, the Town Council passed Ordinance 323, imposing such a moratorium. The Planning Commission has been asked to address the issue of regulating 1) the removal of trees on public property in Beaux Arts and 2) the removal of trees on private property in Beaux Arts Village. After some discussion, the commissioners concurred that they would be supportive of an ordinance regulating the removal, maintenance and replanting of trees of on Town property. The commissioner's responses when questioned about supporting a similar ordinance for private property were consistent in stating that more community input is needed, not enough facts are available yet, and that we need to find a way to preserve trees but community opinion needs to be listened to. The commissioners agreed to come up with a proposal to send to the Town Council, summarizing their opinion on the issue. It was agreed that the following statement will be sent to the Town Council prior to their next meeting:

- A) The Planning Commission recommends the extension of the Town of Beaux Arts Village Ordinance No. 323, imposing a moratorium on tree removal and topping, for 180 days, and will provide recommendations prior to the expiration of the moratorium;
- B) The Planning Commission endorses having an ordinance regulating trees on public property;
- C) The Planning Commission will consider an ordinance regulating significant trees on private property. The Planning Commission believes that private property rights have to be considered carefully when addressing this issue.

It was moved by Commissioner Hobbs and seconded by Commissioner Clemet that this statement be sent to the Beaux Arts Town Council. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on May 13, 2004 at Andy Stefan's house.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Donworth
Deputy Town Clerk